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SHORT PRAYERS
FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COTTON.

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SHORT PRAYERS

AND

Other Helps to Devotion,

FOR

THE BOYS OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

BY

GEORGE EDWARD LYNCH COTTON, M.A.
MASTER OF MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE,
LATE FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

FIFTH EDITION.

LONDON:
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS.
1854.

13 f. d. 16.

BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA

TO

GEORGE GRANVILLE BRADLEY, M.A.

This Book

IS INSCRIBED

BY ONE WHO WAS LONG HIS FELLOW-LABOURER,

AND IS

ALWAYS HIS AFFECTIONATE FRIEND.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO

THE FIRST EDITION.

THIS little book has been drawn up under a deep conviction that there is nothing to prevent the boys of a public school from acting, not only on the dictates of prudence and morality, but also of real and spiritual religion; and with an earnest wish that it may be made, by God's blessing, one means among many others of preserving in the School something of the spirit of that great and good man who here laboured so heartily in the glorious work of christianizing the public education of England. It is therefore hoped that nothing unworthy of his teaching and his practice will be found in this book, which has been written principally in consequence of a request from his successor. It is probable, too, that had he been spared to us, such a publication would have been agreeable to his own wishes, from his having recommended the use of books of this character in the second sermon of his first volume.

Rugby, June 12. 1843.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO

THE FIFTH EDITION.

MANY years have passed away, and many changes have taken place, since the first edition of this book was published. The Author was then working in the School which is so inseparably associated with the name of Arnold, the memory of whose death was still fresh, and vividly impressed upon the minds of all connected with Rugby. Now, that most solemn event has receded into the past: the Author has himself been transferred to other scenes: the generation of boys who knew Arnold has long been dispersed. Hence it seemed needless to retain allusions in the Introduction of which the interest had ceased, or to give the book in any way a temporary and local character. Yet in separating it, as he has separated himself, from immediate and exclusive connection with Rugby, the Author cannot but look back, with reverent affection, to the place from which flowed all the views, now so generally professed, of raising, widening, and christianizing our public education. Old schools have now acknowledged these principles, and new schools have been founded to carry them out. Let us not forget by whose hand, and in what place, the sacred fire was, in our age, rekindled; and let us hope that it may burn there, year by year, with a brighter flame.

The College, Marlborough,
March 24. 1854.

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SHORT PRAYERS.

INTRODUCTION.

"CHRIST came to redeem all to Himself: all, I say, who are born again unto God through Him:—infants, children, boys, youths, and the old. Therefore He passed through every age, and became an infant to infants, sanctifying infants: He became a child among children, to sanctify those of this age, giving them at the same time an example of piety, of justice, and obedience; and for young men, He became a young man, to set them an example, and to sanctify them to the Lord."*

These are the words of an early Christian writer, nor do I know of any more appropriate to prefix to a little book, intended to help the young to love and serve Him, who Himself

* Irenæus, ii. c. 22. § 4. p. 147.

when young, set them the example of perfect purity. So many persons seem to think religion unnatural to boyhood, that it seems necessary at the very outset to protest against this fatal error. Let us do so in the words of one who revived in England the almost forgotten truth, that a public school was designed to be the Temple of God:—"You have heard Christ's call to take up your cross and follow Him, to serve Him always, in all things, in small and great, in thought, word, and deed, there most carefully, where it costs you most pain to do it. But do not go away grieving* because you are young, and because you are at a place where temptations are many, and faithful steady service of Christ will cost you many a sacrifice. Turn not from Him, but to Him much rather, with earnest prayer that He who bore His most painful cross for you, will enable you to bear your light one for His love; that He will help you daily, as your trial will come

* Mark x. 22.

daily; that His strength may be made perfect in your weakness. And then, though the thing be harder than that a camel should pass through a needle's eye, yet shall it be done. The young, and they that are at school, with all their carelessness, with all their difficulties from without, as well as from within, they shall enter into the kingdom of God; for so some have entered, and so shall some enter again, and so may all enter who do not turn away from their cross, but ask Christ's grace to help them to bear it."* The whole notion that it is impossible for boys to be religious, seems to arise from our forgetting that every age and condition is exposed to its own peculiar temptations, and that while boys are undoubtedly liable to many serious trials and difficulties, yet they are at the same time free from others which will come upon them as they grow up. They are tempted to be careless and thoughtless, and to act upon impulse

* Arnold's Sermons, vol. v. Sermon xxiii.,—Christ's Warning to the Young.

instead of reflection; and these are, no doubt, grave obstacles to their leading a religious life. At a public school, too, they are exposed, from their very close contact with their companions, to the influences of bad example and bad society, in a greater degree than they will be afterwards, when they live more independently and alone. But then the temptations which a boy feels to be thoughtless and disobedient, or to swear, or deceive his masters, or to neglect his appointed work, are in no way greater than the snares which are placed in the path of a grown-up man by selfishness, and worldliness, and ambition. It is hard to see why such sins as these are at all less odious to God, or less likely to be fatal to our salvation, than carelessness and disobedience. Both classes of sins are the peculiar faults of different ages, both are to be resisted by the same means; both can be conquered by the same almighty help of God the Holy Ghost; both will be conquered, if those who are under their influence pray earnestly for His aid, through Christ their

Saviour; and both, if persisted in, must lead to eternal death.

But if a boy encounters many hindrances in turning to God, it is certain that his peculiar helps are great also. The first truths of Christianity, when they do lay hold of a young mind at all, seize upon it with a greater force than in later years, because the faith of youth is more undoubting, and its apprehension more simple. For instance, the ideas of eternity and of a future judgment present themselves to a boy with a vividness which in later life is often obscured. At such an age, every one who thinks at all, must feel very keenly the truth, that if he persists in disobedience to God, he will at last be an utter outcast from His presence. So, too, the belief in God's omnipresence is likely to influence a boy more than it does a man. Neither, indeed, can help feeling the tremendous importance of such a truth, but the mind of the latter, unless really and habitually influenced by Christianity, is overgrown with doubts, and difficulties, and

refinements, which in the former do not exist. Thus the boy receives, in all its awful simplicity, the doctrine, that every profane or indecent word which he ever uttered was noted by the all-hearing ear of God, that every action of disobedience or unkindness of which he was ever guilty was observed by His all-seeing eye, that every lie which he ever told, though it succeeded perfectly in deceiving the person to whom it was addressed, was clearly fathomed by His unerring mind. Now here are two simple thoughts calculated to produce that fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom. And these thoughts experience proves that boys most readily apprehend, however inconsistent their practice may be with their belief. It is quite true that they are thoughts belonging in some degree to natural religion, and that they are not the means which God has appointed to change the human heart. But in the same way, the belief in Christ as an everliving Friend, always ready to help His redeemed, seems to be one likely to lay strong hold on a young mind, and to present itself before

it in its full beauty and comfort. Afterwards, men are distracted by metaphysical queries suggested by the understanding; by sins which in youth were not formed into *habits*, and therefore not such great hindrances to our "knowing the doctrine" as when they have changed into an habitual and long continued neglect of "doing God's will." *

Another great reason which fosters the notion that boys are unable to be religious is, that this age is so often one of *transition*. The comparative innocence of childhood has passed away, the development of manly and strengthened growth in Christian holiness has not begun. Hence we see boys coarse and thoughtless, and even profane, and we are apt to think that by losing their innocence they have *become* irreligious. Whereas they have never yet been religious at all; for since the fall, true religion cannot consist in innocence, but must be the fruit of victory. That innocence of which we regret the loss, such as it was, is merely a quiescent state, comparatively unexposed to temptation. The tempta-

* John, vii. 17.

tion came, the house was empty, swept, garnished; not the habitation of God's S and therefore ready to be the dwelling-p of seven wicked spirits. But this mak the more incumbent on us to endeavou supply the place of this so-called innoc by Christian strength, nor can the fact, boyhood is a transition-age, prevent the g of Christ from displacing its coarseness its carelessness. Then will the boy bec Christ's servant indeed; not because h never exposed to temptation, but because is enabling him daily to conquer tempta he will be a faithful soldier of his Lord, who is struggling and pressing onwar receive his crown.

Only we must remember, and this third origin of the error we are refu that religious convictions will not show th selves in boyhood in the same manne they do in manhood. There cannot be calm wisdom and holy experience of one has grown old in the service of Christ; t will be a keener relish for those enjoyn

which the world offers (such of them, that is, as are not in themselves sinful) than can be felt by those who have learned to know how passing and worthless they are. The consciousness of bodily strength and activity, and the pleasure naturally derived from the exercises connected with them, must alone produce a great difference between the habits of a young and an old person, both of whom are equally desirous of cleaving to Christ. There can no more be that same sort of grave and serious manner, which is one of the mental signs of manhood, than there can be any of the physical proofs of mature and perfect growth. But there may be thoughtfulness, and repentance, and faith, and love: there may be habits of earnest prayer, a growing communion with Christ as a Saviour and a Friend, an increasing conviction of personal unworthiness, and of the necessity that we should be guided in all things by a Holier Spirit than our own. There may be a real perception of the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection, a struggling against temptation

more and more earnest, a feeling that we live always in the presence of God.

It remains to say a few words on the use intended to be made of this little book. There will be found in it prayers to be repeated on several occasions. Now, as a general rule, the use of written prayers *in private* is not necessary, nor even desirable. While there is every reason for choosing a form for our public devotions, there are many against adopting it in our private worship. It seems difficult to suppose that what is uttered extempore by one person can express the thoughts, and feelings, and wants of a whole assembly so well as words which have been carefully drawn up for the purpose, selected from the writings of holy men in many ages and circumstances, and handed down to us through successive generations of our forefathers. Besides, many people find it very hard to follow an extempore prayer *as a prayer;* they may attend to it as we do to a sermon, and so get good from it, but they do not join in it, as they cannot tell what

its several clauses are, till they have actually been spoken. Whereas in private, we can of course utter, with most heartfelt devotion, the suggestions of our own thoughts; no prayers of other men, however holy, no liturgy, however familiar to us, can express our private weaknesses and wishes so well, as words of our own, and therefore it is most desirable, in our private prayers, to use such words. Still forms of prayer may be useful for us even in private, and especially for those who are beginning a religious course; not if they are always literally followed, but if they are used as suggesting to us the matter and object of our prayers, furnishing us with words in which to express the general wants, towards the removal of which every one should pray, and directing our attention more particularly to the special trials and temptations, against which, in some form or other, we certainly need help. It is in this way, then, that the following prayers are intended to be used, not as supplying always the exact words of our addresses to God, but as the outlines of fuller

and more particular petitions. Thus, for instance, where prayers for friends are introduced, it will be right to mention any in whom we feel a special interest.

Remarks of the same kind will apply to the form of self-examination which is here drawn up. This is designedly couched in very general terms, and certainly cannot include all the subjects on which it is desirable for us to inquire into the state of our hearts before God. Each person can only know for himself what are the peculiar sins which most easily beset him, and therefore in using any form, he must add to, adapt, and alter the letter, in order the more truly to realize the spirit. There is, besides, another reason for not making a form of self-examination too minute and circumstantial. The great question for us to consider is our general state, whether we are or are not travelling in the narrow way which leads to life; and we inquire into particulars, partly as tests of the condition of our hearts, to ascertain whether we have reason to think

that we are quenching in any point the influence of God's Spirit, partly to satisfy ourselves that our views of Christian holiness and perfection are according to the mind of Christ. We cannot be saved by particular acts; they are the fruit by which the tree must be known; but we should remember that it is the root at which our duty requires us to labour, and that to attempt to give strength and growth to the tree, by devoting our chief attention to the individual fruits which different parts of it produce, would be to reverse the means of improvement which God has pointed out to us. Indeed, it matters little by what particular road our souls are travelling to eternal death, when all sinful paths equally lead to it. Therefore, to produce within himself an abhorrence of all sin because it is sin, and on that account displeasing to God and Christ, and ruinous to the soul, must be the effort of every one who is struggling to escape from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Further, in conducting any course of self-examination, there are two, in some respects opposite, cautions most desirable for us to notice, the one of which has been stated by Coleridge, and the other by Dr. Arnold. The first is the necessity of "reminding the individual that not he, but Christ is to redeem him, and the way to be redeemed is to think with will, mind, and affections on Christ, and not on himself. I am a sinladen being, and Christ has promised to loose the whole burden if I will but trust in Him. To torment myself with the detail of the noisome contents of the burden will but make it stick the closer, first to my imagination, and then to my unwilling will."* It was therefore intended so to choose the subjects for self-examination, as to make it clear that they were to be taken as tests by which we might judge whether the removal of the burden of sin is proceeding, and therefore whether we are cleaving to Christ as we should do. Hence there are hardly any ques-

* Coleridge's Literary Remains, vol. iii.—Notes on the Pilgrim's Progress.

tions about such particulars as do not seem calculated to indicate progress or relapse in our Christian course. Besides this, greater minuteness seems useless, since any boy who was in the constant habit of lying or swearing, or committing any other gross vice, would of course be most unlikely to trouble himself about self-examination at all.

The other caution necessary to be observed in conducting an examination of ourselves is, to limit it as much as possible to actions and distinct opinions on points of Christian practice, and not to inquire too accurately into our motives, the purity of our faith, or the depth of our sorrow for sin. We must remember that actions are the tests by which God will judge of feelings and belief. Here, as in other cases, the words of Dr. Arnold are most wise and just. "We do well to examine how we are spending our time or our money: whether we pray and read the Scriptures, whether we are kind, temperate in all things, pure, and true. But we do not do well when we wish to scrutinize nicely the exact nature,

of our faith and repentance, whether we
sorry enough for the offence we had comm
against God; whether we really abho
own righteousness entirely, and have no
ing trust in our hearts in anything that w
whether finally we love God truly for Hi
or are most moved to do so by the ho
His rewards. These inquiries, vain and
plexing to all, are in some most fatal;
turn our thoughts to that on which non
safely or healthfully watch the actual
ings of our minds and feelings; they
us to try to analyze what defies analysi
mingled nature of our desires, hopes,
fears; they make our spiritual state de
on our power of metaphysical observa
* * * 'He that loveth me,' says C
'keepeth my commandments;' so far a
do not keep them, our love is deficien
far as we do not overcome the world,
faith is weak." * So that while on the
hand we shall direct our attention main

* Arnold's Sermons, vol. iii. Sermon xxxi.—I
Changes.

the general question of our advance or relapse in Christian grace, we shall, on the other, use actions, and not feelings, as the proofs of our spiritual condition.

If, on such principles as these, we adopt the habit of examining into our moral state with a view to self-discipline and self-improvement, we shall soon find that the faults and bad actions which we deplore result from the neglect of some holy principle, or the encouragement of some evil feeling or affection. By cultivating diligently, and with prayer, the principle thus violated, and the feelings most opposed to those which have led us into sinful actions, we shall, by God's help, cease to commit them. By strengthening and increasing the number of our good principles, right feelings, pure affections, and worthy sympathies, we shall be more likely to succeed in our struggles with those which are evil; and thus self-examination, if it is to be of any value, must lead to a sustained, systematic, and earnest attempt to improve our character, for it is quite certain that without this pro-

gress in holiness, carried on by constant efforts and prayers for God's grace, our different examinations of ourselves will degenerate into empty forms.*

It will be observed that there is in this volume very little of direct preparation for

* "Instead of weighing each particular instance of sin, and observing after what interval it occurred, and whether with a little more or little less temptation than usual, we should try and get at the substance of the thing, so as to ascertain what fundamental precept of God is violated by the habit in question. That precept we should make our study, and then there is more hope of a permanent amendment. Infinite toil would not enable you to sweep away a mist; but, by ascending a little, you may often look over it altogether. So it is with moral improvement: we wrestle fiercely with a vicious habit, which would have no hold upon us if we ascended into a higher moral atmosphere. It is by adding to our good purposes, and nourishing the affections which are rightly placed, that we shall best be able to combat the bad ones. You will then resist an evil habit with the strength which you have gained in carrying out a good one. You will find, too, that when you set your heart upon the things that are worthy of it, the small selfish ends, which used to be so dear to it, will appear almost disgusting. In the same way, if you extend and deepen your sympathies, the prejudices which have hitherto clung obstinately to you, will fall away: your former uncharitableness will seem absolutely distasteful: you will have brought home to it feelings and opinions with which it cannot live."—*Essays written in the Intervals of Business. On Self Discipline.*

the Holy Communion. The omission was designed; for however great is the reverence and solemnity with which it should be regarded, yet it seems on many accounts undesirable to separate it too much from the ordinary course of our daily life. The great thing for us to realize is, that we must continually eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood *, by habitual union with Him, and that the Communion is to be considered as one principal means of our doing so. The preparation which our church enjoins for it is self-examination, and therefore if a boy who intends to receive it uses the form here provided for that purpose, and adds to his daily prayers some such petitions as those which will here be found in their proper place, he will probably, with God's blessing on his own endeavours, be ready to receive it with profit. He will also do well, as the time for taking it approaches, to abstain from any very exciting or absorbing amusement, so that his heart may be fit to receive holy and

* John vi. 53.

quiet thoughts of God, and Christ, and heaven.

It has not been thought necessary to provide in this book forms of prayer adapted to the fasts and festivals of the Church of England. The Collects which the Church has itself enjoined to be used on those occasions may be added to our daily prayers, especially that for Ash-Wednesday during Lent, and for Advent-Sunday during the term of Advent. For even when these, in their actual form, are not adapted for individual use, they may easily suggest subjects for private prayer, and for the same purpose the Epistle or Gospel may be profitably employed. Prayers, however, have been written for Good-Friday and Christmas-Day, as the prayers for Sunday cannot be fitly used upon these days; and for the same reason, abridged adaptations of Dr. Arnold's prayers for Easter-Day and Whit-Sunday have been inserted in the volume.

It is earnestly hoped, in conclusion, that no one who uses this book will think of confining himself to it. Such a limitation of our com-

munion with God would be a complete renunciation of the apostolic precept, "Pray without ceasing." This can never be complied with by the use of forms of any kind, but must be obeyed by the heart remaining in a constant state of prayer, that is, in such a state, that whenever it feels temptation, its first impulse may be to ask God for help and deliverance. A few words silently breathed to Him, such a prayer as *Lord help me and deliver me from this sin for Christ's sake,* may be sufficient to draw down upon us the fulness of His blessing. Some such ejaculations have been provided, but many cases will occur to every individual to which none of them exactly apply.*

* "Prayer is a constant source of invigoration to self-discipline: not the thoughtless praying which is a thing of custom, but that which is sincere, intense, watchful. Let a man ask himself whether he really would have the thing he prays for; let him think, when he is praying for a spirit of forgiveness, whether even at that moment he is disposed to give up the luxury of anger. If not, what a horrible mockery it is! To think that a man can find nothing better to do in the presence of his Creator than telling off so many words: alone with his God, and repeating his task like a child.

Nor, again, must we neglect that kind of prayer which is connected with and forms part of our private reading of the Scripture. It is hardly possible that a boy at school should be able to give up much time to this, but some short period in every day should by all means be secured for the purpose. A few verses read and thought about, and followed by prayer, would preserve us from much evil. For instance, suppose that a boy were to open St. John's Gospel, and read these three verses, — "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word, that they all may be one, as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me: and the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them, that they may be one, even as we are One."* Then, let him reflect that he is himself one of those for whom Christ ex-

longing to get rid of it, and indifferent to its meaning!" —*Essays written in the Intervals of Business.*

* John xvii. 20.

pressly offered this prayer, since he believes on Him through the word of the Apostles. Suppose that he were to resolve to try his best to do his own part in fulfilling this prayer, and therefore to endeavour to promote among his friends a feeling of unity and love. He would pray to God to give him strength to do so, and he would join his companions in a spirit of kindness, and anxiety to please and oblige them in all lawful things, strengthened also by the assurance that such conduct would actually spread the knowledge of Christ among those who now despise Him, since the passage tells us that the goodness of true Christians is to be to others one proof of the truth of Christ's religion. This is an example of really reading the Bible, nor can any one doubt how richly blessed such study of it would be.

SHORT PRAYERS

AND

OTHER HELPS TO DEVOTION.

MORNING PRAYER.

O Lord and heavenly Father, by whose great mercy I have spent this night in peace, and awake this morning refreshed and strengthened, incline my heart now to seek Thee, and teach me how to pray. Let Thy Spirit, O Lord, pour His light upon my mind. Forgive me, for Jesus Christ's sake, all the sins and evil thoughts of the past night, and of my whole former life; forgive all my ingratitude, perverseness, and hardness of heart; and may this new morning which Thou hast permitted me to see, make me feel more deeply that I

must work while it is day, since the night cometh when no man can work. Keep me throughout this day, by Thy Holy Spirit, from the sins which Thou knowest most easily to beset me; especially from forgetfulness of Thee and of my own soul, from selfishness and passion, from idleness and sloth, from evil thoughts and evil words; and enable me to fulfil my duties in this place with energy and perseverance, endeavouring always to consecrate them all to Thy glory. Be with me in my work and my enjoyments alike; and may neither estrange my heart from Thee, who art the giver of all good, and the source of all happiness.

Bless, O Lord, all my relations and friends. Bless this School, and those who are set over it. Bless especially my own chosen friends in it. May this day be spent in peace by all of us, even in the peace which Thou givest, and which passeth all understanding. And may Christ our Lord be amongst us by His Spirit to preserve us from all sin, and to keep us ever pure, and faithful, and loving. Hear

me, O Lord, I beseech Thee, through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

O Almighty God, I thank Thee that Thou hast added to my life another day, and thereby given me a fresh opportunity of turning heartily to Thee, and of devoting to Thy glory the talents which Thou hast entrusted to me. But I confess to Thee, O Father, with shame, that I have not used this opportunity as I should have done, but have sinned against Thee in thought, word, and deed. [*Here confess the sins of the day.*] My only hope is in Thy mercy, and in the merits of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Grant to me, for His sake, Thy Holy Spirit, to cleanse the thoughts of my heart by His holy inspiration, to assure me of Thy forgiving love, and to give me both the power and the will to love Thee in return.

And, forasmuch as Thou hast made the night for man to rest in, grant that the sleep which I now hope to enjoy may be consecrated to Thy service, by refreshing my wearied body, and enabling me to do Thy will more faithfully when I wake. Help me now also to call to mind the sleep of death, which must one day come upon me; and give me Thy grace so to follow Christ in life, that I may also pass with Him through death to His glorious resurrection. Grant that my sins may be so done away in me now by the blood of Christ, and by the power of His Spirit, that, from this my mortal body, there may hereafter rise a glorious body, fitted to dwell for ever with Thee, O Father, through Him who died to save us, Thy most dear and blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O Almighty God, who, notwithstanding all my former neglect of the means of grace

which Thou hast given me, hast yet raised me up once more to see the light of this holy day, accept me, for Thy Son's sake, I beseech Thee, and forgive me all my sins. O Lord, unless Thou pardonest and cleansest me, I cannot serve Thee nor worship Thee acceptably. Put away all my offences, and deliver me from the chains with which they have bound me. Incline my heart to begin this Thy holy day, and this new week upon which Thy mercy suffers me to enter, by solemnly dedicating to Thy service, myself, my soul and body, every faculty and power with which Thou hast blest me; and accept, O Lord, this my living sacrifice, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who offered up Himself as a sacrifice for us, that by His death we might be pardoned and accepted in Thy sight. Pour out upon me Thy Holy Spirit, that He may guide me into all holiness and all truth. Enlighten my understanding, that I may know Thee; purify my affections, that I may love Thee; and put Thy fear into my heart, that I maydread to offend Thee. Thou

knowest, Lord, that I am weak and sinful, that I constantly break my resolutions and do the things which I have prayed not to do. But thou canst raise me from the death of sin to the life of righteousness: be with me, then, I beseech Thee, and bless me for Christ's sake.

Lord, may I derive some good from what I hear to-day; enable me to attend to it and to join with my whole heart in the prayers of Thy Church. Make me less indifferent to holy things, less cold and heartless in Thy service. Bless every member of this School, and preserve us in body and soul from every kind of evil. And as this day is specially Thine, may it be spent by all of us in special peace and love and holiness, and be to us a foretaste of that eternal rest, into which I pray Thee hereafter to receive us all, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Almighty and everlasting God, I pray Thee to pardon all the indifference to Thy word which I have shown upon this Thy holy day. Forgive, for Christ's sake, my inattention, which I know and feel to be a mark of indifference to Thee. Grant that whatever good I have gained from the services of to-day, may enable me to serve Thee more faithfully, and give me grace always to remember that I am not my own, but purchased to Thyself by the price of Christ's blood. So may I live as becomes one whom He has redeemed; and since my own utmost strength is weakness, do Thou, O Lord, give me Thy Holy Spirit, to make Thy strength perfect in my weakness. Grant that, if it please Thee to bring me to the end of this week, I may then be conscious of some improvement, and some victory over my selfishness and my sin. Or, if it please Thee, that before this week is passed I should be summoned to see Thee face to face,

grant that I may stand before Thee with joy and not with grief, and may find that through Christ my sins have been forgiven me.

May all sins of which I have been to-day reminded be forsaken for ever; may all holy dispositions be strengthened within me. Make me more pure, and humble, and believing, anxious in all things to serve Thee, doing everything as in Thy sight, so that to me to live may be Christ, and to die may be gain. Hear also the prayers which my relations and friends shall offer up to Thee to-night, and give them Thy Spirit to guide them to heaven. Bless all for whom I ought to pray, especially every member of this School, and make us all Thy true children and servants, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

O Almighty God, who hast brought me in Thy mercy to the beginning of another six

days of work, I beseech Thee to bestow upon me Thy blessing. Keep me, O Lord, from all sin, and make me to know and feel that Thine eye is upon me during all my employments, and that there is no duty or pleasure which I may not consecrate to Thy glory. Lord, I confess to Thee my sinfulness in thought, that I am often [*Here mention unkind, envious, or other evil thoughts*] — in word, that what I say is [*Here confess hasty, angry, false, foolish, or uncharitable words*] — and in deed [*Here confess unkindness, idleness, and sinful actions of other kinds*]. Truly I have done what I ought not to have done, and not done what I ought to have done. My only hope is in Thy mercy, and in the merits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Pour upon me, through Him, Thy Holy Spirit, and may I trust to Him for support in every difficulty, and grace to conquer every sin. Enable me during this week to make some advance in holy living, and grant that by receiving a gracious answer to these my prayers, I may be encouraged and

strengthened to ask Thee for greater things. Bless this School throughout the week, and save it from the pollution of sin. Bless my father and mother, my brothers, sisters, and all my relations and friends. I beseech Thee to accept my thanksgiving for all Thy goodness to me, for my health and strength, and all the happiness which I enjoy, and to hear and answer these my imperfect supplications, and to give me all other needful blessings for which in my ignorance I know not how to pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Almighty God, I pray Thee to forgive all the sins which I have committed during the week now closing upon me, and I thank Thee that Thou hast been pleased mercifully to protect me, and to renew to me Thy loving kindness day by day. Pardon me, especially

for my little interest in the good of others, my absorbing selfishness, and anxiety for my own comfort. Lord, make me humble and watchful, pure in my most secret thoughts, sincere and truthful in every word, kind and just, diligent and conscientious. May I be ever like a servant waiting for his Lord, that when He cometh and knocketh, I may be ready to open to Him immediately.

Have mercy upon my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all my absent relations. Enable me to make some return for the happiness which they give me, by living here as if I were still in their sight, and teach me to remember that though my earthly parents are absent, Thine eye, O Heavenly Father, is ever upon me. May this School be in truth a Christian body, a true and living Church, a holy temple, the dwelling-place of Thy Spirit. May all its members love and serve Thee, and do Thou bless them with all Thy best gifts. Give us all grace to feel that our life here is a season of preparation for greater duties hereafter. O Lord, watch over

us all throughout this night, and prepare us for the duties and refreshments of Thy holy day. Make it a day of rest and help to our souls, and keep us always in Thy faith and fear, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY: DESIGNED AS HELPS TO SELF-RECOLLECTION, AND TO THE APPLICATION OF THE SCRIPTURES TO DAILY LIFE.

Heb. iv. 12. 13.—*The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

Lord, make me mindful of that all-piercing eye.

John iii. 36.—*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

Lord, give me this faith, and save me from this condemnation.

John vii. 37—39. — *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.*

Lord, I thirst: give me this living water of Thy Spirit, that it may be in me a well of water, springing up into everlasting life.

John xi. 6. — *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

John xvii. 3. — *This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.*

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life, grant me perfectly to know Thy Son Jesus Christ to be the Way, the

Truth, and the Life, that, following the steps of Thy blessed saints, I may steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life, through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Luke ii. 49.—*And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business.*

Luke xii. 35, 36.—*Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.*

Rom. xii. 11.—*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.*

Col. iii. 17.—*Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.*

Lord, help me to see Thy business in my work here, and to do it heartily, diligently, thankfully, as for Thee and in Thy sight; but watching ever, lest through ambition or over-

eagerness that which should be for my good become to me an occasion of falling.

John iv. 34.—*Jesus said unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish His work.*

O Lord, enable me, I pray Thee, ever to do Thy will in all things. May I, poor and weak as I am, receive grace to carry on Thy work on earth. Bring many, O Lord, to Thy true fold, who are now wandering in carelessness and sin; enable me to pray for them always, and to help them always to the utmost of my power. May I finish, too, Thy work in my own heart, and do Thou send Thy Holy Spirit to dwell in it and purify it, and to make me Thy loving and obedient child.

John xiv. 23.—*Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

John xv. 12—15.—*This is my commandment that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this,*

that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

1 John ii. 4—6. — *He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him. He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.*

O Lord, who art so kind and gracious that Thou hast vouchsafed to call even sinful men Thy friends, I pray Thee to draw me to Thyself, and to make my union with Thee closer day by day. O Lord, may I ever strive to promote peace and charity among all who surround me, loving them and seeking their good, even as Thou hast loved us. Let me not think that I believe in Thee while I re-

main still in darkness; but may I know that Thou abidest in me, by the Spirit which Thou givest me.

John xvii. 15. — *I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst pray for Thy disciples not that they should be taken out of the world, but that they should be kept from the evil, I beseech Thee to defend me in the snares which surround me in this school, the world of my youth, and to keep me safe from the temptations of evil example, evil companions, and above all, of my own evil heart. Hear me, O Lord Christ, who didst die for us once, and who livest for us for ever.

O Lord, let me commit to Thy care, not only my hours of sleeping, but my hours of worldly waking. I have work to do, I have a busy world around me; eye, ear, and thought, will all be needed for that work, done in and amidst that busy world; therefore I would commit eye, ear, thought, and wish to Thee. Do Thou bless them and keep their

work Thine; that as, through Thy natural laws, my heart beats and my blood flows without my thought for them, so my spiritual life may hold on its course, through Thy help, at those times when my mind cannot consciously turn to Thee to commit each particular thought to Thy service.*

Ps. lxxiii. 23.—*I am continually with Thee: Thou hast holden me by my right hand.*

24. *Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*

25. *Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee.*

26. *My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*

Lord, make these desires and these comforts mine.

John xx. 29.—*Jesus said unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.*

* Arnold.

O Lord, I pray Thee that I may endeavour always to realize Thy presence with me, though Thou art unseen: teach me to know and feel that Thou art with me always, as a merciful Saviour, to help me when I am tempted and troubled, to be grieved when I do wrong, to encourage me when I repent. May this faith daily increase in me more and more, so that at last, when Thou art pleased to call me hence, it may be changed into the blessed privilege of seeing Thee face to face. Make it, O Lord, my chief desire thus to see Thee and thus to know Thee, and make me fear exceedingly lest I should ever do anything which would turn Thee from me, and displease Thee, O blessed Jesus, who art not ashamed to call us brethren.

Heb. ii. 17, 18.—*Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.*

Heb. iv. 14—16.—*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief: enable me to obey this call; to come without reserve to Thy throne of grace: and do Thou, O Lord, grant me mercy. Grant me grace to help me in this my time of need, for the sake of Him who lived and died and rose again for us, Jesus Christ our Priest and Saviour. Amen.

THOUGHTS FOR THE NIGHT.

Ps. cxxxix. 1.—*O Lord, Thou hast searched me, and known me.*

2. *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; Thou understandest my thoughts afar off.*

3. *Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.*

4. *For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether.*

3. *Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me.*

6. *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.*

7. *Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence?*

8. *If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there.*

9. *If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;*

10. *Even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.*

11. *If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.*

12. *Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the night are both alike to Thee.*

13. *For Thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.*

14. *I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

15. *My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.*

16. *Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in Thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

17. *How precious also are Thy thoughts*

unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

18. *If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with Thee.*

Ps. xlii. 10. — *The Lord hath granted His lovingkindness in the day-time, and in the night season did I sing of Him, and made my prayer unto the God of my life.*

Ps. lxiii. 1. — *O God, Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee; my soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;*

2. *To see Thy power and Thy glory, so as I have seen Thee in the sanctuary.*

3. *Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee.*

4. *Thus will I bless Thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in Thy name.*

5. *My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips:*

6. *When I remember Thee upon my bed, and meditate on Thee in the night watches.*

7. *Because Thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.*

8. *My soul followeth hard after Thee: Thy right hand upholdeth me.*

Rom. xiii. 12. — *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

O Almighty God, enable me so to believe in Thy Son Jesus Christ, that I may long for His appearing, and regard my separation from Him as a dark and gloomy night, and my future union with Him as a heavenly waking to everlasting day, O may I daily increase in all holiness, being clad in the armour of light, and living for Thee, and in Thee, and with Thee always. Hear me, I beseech Thee, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Mark xiii. 34—36.—*The Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye, therefore: for ye know*

not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning. Lest coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.

1 Thess. v. 2—10.— *The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken, are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we*

wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

O Lord, who art the Author of every good gift both to my body and to my soul, I pray Thee, if it please Thee, to grant to me the blessing of refreshing rest, that when I wake up in the morning, I may be the fitter to serve Thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

O Lord, give me grace to bear in mind that coming time when I must pass from the light of life to the darkness of death, and enable me to feel deeply how awful it would be then to be shut out from Thy presence, and from the joys which are promised to us in heaven. I thank Thee, O Father, for all who have departed this life in Thy faith and fear, especially for those whom I have known and loved upon earth. Restore me at last to their blessed company, that I may love them again in Christ and for His sake, with an affection wholly free from all earthly stain.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast told us that at midnight there shall be a cry, made "Behold

the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him:" I pray Thee that I may be ready when Thou shalt come, with my lamp trimmed and burning, and may go in with Thee before the door is shut, and so abide for ever with Thee, who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

SHORT PRAYERS FOR DIFFERENT OCCASIONS.

Before reading the Scriptures, or hearing them read.

Lord, teach me to love Thee better, and so shall I better love Thy word. Preserve me now from wandering thoughts, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Or,

Lord, open Thou my heart, that I may understand Thy Scriptures for Christ's sake.

O may Thy word dwell in me richly with all wisdom, now and for ever.

Lord, may Thy word be the guide of my whole life; teach me to abide in Thee, and to walk even as Thou hast walked.

Before the Church Service, or School Prayers.

Lord, we are gathered together in Thy Name: be Thou in the midst of us. Enable me, O Lord, now to pray to Thee; and hear Thou in heaven, and answer me.

Or,

Lord, help me to pray to Thee.

Keep me now, O Father, from all wandering thoughts.

Lord, turn my heart to Thee, and give me Thy Holy Spirit for Christ's sake.

Lord, who hast told us that whatever we ask in Thy Son's Name, believing, we shall receive, O hear us now and bless us, and accept our prayers for His sake.

When exposed to different temptations.

Lord, teach me to remember and to fear Thy saying, that for every idle word which I speak, I shall give account at the day of

judgment. Hear me, I beseech Thee, and save me from this temptation, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Lord, save me from anger and ill temper, and give me grace to imitate Thee, who, when Thou wast reviled, didst not revile again.

Lord, save me from loving and making a lie, for they who do so shall in no wise enter into Thy kingdom. Help me, I beseech Thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Lord, save me from these bad and unholy thoughts, from all the evil that comes out of my heart and defiles me, and make me pure, even as our Lord Jesus Christ is pure.

O Lord, help me to escape from pride and confidence in my own strength, and teach me not to think that I stand, but to take heed lest I fall. Hold Thou me up, O Lord, that my footsteps slip not.

O Almighty Father, enable me to love my companions, even as Thou hast commanded us to believe on the name of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and to love one another.

Lord, preserve me from the sin of despis-

ing others, and rather enable me to despise myself, for I know Thy will, but do it not. Lord, help me to do it better, lest I be like him who said, I go, but went not.*

Lord, save me, I pray Thee, from selfishness, and enable me to find a truer happiness in doing good to others, than in pleasing myself. May I remember the word of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.†

* Matt. xxi. 30 † Acts, xx . 35.

PRAYER BEFORE SELF-EXAMINATION.

The most proper times for a regular self-examination would seem to be, before the Communion, and at the end of the half year and of the holidays. Other opportunities, such as during sickness or after recovery, will naturally suggest themselves. But it is very desirable to make the self-examination definite and formal, for there is the same danger with regard to this as with regard to prayer, that unless it is so conducted, and done at stated times, it is apt to be neglected altogether.

Luke xv. 19. — *Father, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and am no more worthy to be called Thy Son.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, I desire now more especially to enter into Thy presence, and to lay bare my heart before Thee. O give me grace to feel how dreadful it is to stand alone with Thee, that this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. *O lead me through* this gate of confession and

prayer and repentance, to Thy Father, and do Thou come to me, as Thou hast promised, and love me, and make Thy abode with me. Lord, enable me to see my own sinfulness, and to hate it and to flee from it, and to cleave more closely to Thee, the more I am tempted to desert Thee, so that I may be with Thee for ever, both in this world and that which is to come. Hear me, O Lord, who hast died and risen again for us, and now livest for us with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

SUBJECTS FOR SELF-EXAMINATION.

Are you conscious that you are a sinner? and does this consciousness show itself in an earnest desire to escape from the pollution of sin now, and its consequences hereafter?

Do you believe that Jesus Christ can save you? that He died to take away sin, and that He now lives again to save all who come to God by Him?

your own soul? (2) regularity i
prayer, and attention at the public
(3) reading the Scriptures, and list
voutly to them when read in the Ch
vice, or in school? (4) spending Su
day of religious rest?

Do you habitually refer events
providence,—pray for His help whe
tempted to sin,—and show that you
Christ as an Everlasting and Almight
by seeking Him in temptation and d

Do you ever think of Him whe
tempted to any sort of unkindness
ness, or impurity, — to the negle
known duty, — or to any such in
pursuit of pleasure, as would turn

have fallen into any sinful act or word or thought, do you at once seek from Christ forgiveness and new strength?

To ascertain how far you are habitually under the guidance of Christian principles, you may ask further,—

What effect has it on you to be ridiculed for strictness on any subject? Do you ever boast of a sinful habit or action (such as violation of school rules, readiness to take offence, successful deceit, &c.,) to gain credit for manliness or spirit?

Are you doing your best to commend your religious convictions to others by your obliging and amiable temper, by the absence of pharisaical pride, and by feeling tenderly for the temptations to which others are exposed, but from which you, by God's blessing, may seem to be at present free?

Are you improving? Do you now succeed better in stopping yourself when you feel tempted to fall into any sin to which you are liable, as swearing, equivocation or lying, ill-natured remarks on others, passion, ill-temper,

idleness? Are the cases fewer in which you are drawn away from God's service, either by the world, the flesh, or the devil? Do you begin to take any pleasure in prayer, in the Scriptures, or in receiving the Lord's Supper?

Do you love your neighbour? This is shown by such habits as (1) praying for your father, mother, relations, and friends,—for the school and all its members,—and others for whom you know that you are bound to pray: (2) trying to give pleasure to others, as by writing home, by helping boys weaker than yourself, by readiness to serve all in any way you can; (3) civility to servants and others who are your inferiors in worldly position, and more especially by abstaining from the great sin of asking or persuading them to do anything wrong inorder to promote your own selfish gratification, or to procure some forbidden indulgence.

Are you conquering selfishness? Do you ever give up any pleasure for the sake of others? Do you ever deny yourself in order

to give to the poor, or even merely to gain the habit of self-denial?

Do you take any pleasure in hearing bad conversation, or associating with those who use it, or in seeing dangerous books?

Are you vain of any of God's gifts, especially cleverness, or bodily strength? Do you use them to God's glory? For instance, do you, by means of the latter, protect the weak, and establish for yourself a good influence over others?

Are you conscientious about your school duties? And do you try already to view things as God views them: not allowing yourself, for example, to regard or speak of passion as any excuse for swearing, or to admire cleverness more than diligence, or to consider good-nature and kindheartedness as making up for an ungodly and thoughtless life; remembering, again, that it is no less sinful to deceive a master than a schoolfellow, no less a duty to try to keep others from evil than yourself, and even more shocking to take

pleasure in the sin of others, than yourself to fall into it?

PRAYERS AFTER SELF-EXAMINATION.

O Lord, I confess to Thee with shame and repentance all the sins of which I feel myself to be guilty; and besides them I would pray Thee to pardon the many secret faults which I cannot now discern, but which are written against me in Thy book of remembrance. I know, O Lord, that nothing can cleanse me but the blood of Christ; O wash me and purge me by it, and send to me Thy blessed Spirit, that He may renew my soul, and enable me daily to grow in grace, and to advance nearer and nearer to Thee. O Lord, without Christ I can do nothing, but with Him I may do all things. Enable me through Him to resist temptation, give me the increase of faith and hope and love, and fill me with the fear of offending Thee, and the desire of pleasing

Thee, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prov. xxviii. 13.—*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

Lord, accept my confession, and convert my soul, and strengthen me with Thy blessed Spirit, for Christ's sake.

Prov. xxviii. 14.—*Happy is the man who feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.*

Fill me, O Lord, with the spirit of Thy holy fear, now and for ever.

Ps. cxxxix. 23.—*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:*

24. *And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

O Thou, who art greater than my heart, and knowest all things, cleanse Thou me even from my secret faults.

Rom. vii. 24.—*O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this*

death? I thank God through Jesus Ch
our Lord.

O Lord, I do thank Thee for Thy gr
mercy in Him, and I pray Thee to make
more thankful, to make me love Him mo
and cling to Him more closely, to cast aw
all my sins at the foot of His cross, and
seek for eternal life by the knowledge of Th
the only true God, and Jesus Christ wh
Thou hast sent. Hear me, O Father, for t
sake of the same Jesus Christ our Savio
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR A DEEPER SENSE OF CHRISTIAN DUTY.

O Lord Almighty, who alone canst conv
the soul of the sinner, from whom only com
the wish and the power to serve Thee, I pr
Thee to grant me the two blessings of
pentance and holiness. Lord, make me
abhor all the sins of my past life, pardon

for my continual negligence of Thee, my disobedience to Thy holy word, the grievous manner in which I have wasted my time, and spent it in doing, speaking, and thinking what is displeasing to Thee. O Lord, I can never feel sufficient penitence for my past sin, and for paying such little heed to the teaching and example of Jesus Christ. I have set my hopes and joys on this world only: Thou hast said, that if any man love the world, Thy love is not in him. I have valued Thy blessings of health, and earthly comfort and knowledge, not that I may do good to others, but that I may enjoy myself. I tremble to think of my countless sins, sins of commission as well as of neglect; I tremble lest I should exclude myself from the salvation that is in Christ Jesus; I tremble to think of my ingratitude to Him who died for me. Lord, make me more deeply penitent, make me to feel greater sorrow for the past, and so work in me holier and more earnest longings to serve Thee better for the future. O Lord, spare me and forgive me; O Lord, make me a true

Christian; give peace to my troubled
science; but preserve me from self-de
and from thinking that there can be any
peace till I am weaned from the love of
world to the desire of the next, till I t
and heartily love my Saviour Jesus Ch
and long for His appearing. O my Fat
I desire to commend every wish and tho
to Thee; take my soul to Thy own
gracious care, purify it, and cleanse it,
make it a fit dwelling-place for Thy ble
Spirit, through Jesus Christ our only Sav
and Redeemer. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER SOME PARTICULAR ANI GRIEVOUS SIN.

O Lord, I approach Thee now with
and trembling as a great sinner, most hun
praying Thee for pardon and forgiver
Renew in me, O Father, what has now b
decayed within me by my own carnal will

frailness; and may the experience of this grievous sin make me renounce utterly all confidence in myself, and lead me to know and feel that without Christ I am lost for ever. Lord, save me from those terrible wages of death which are due to sin; O give me yet eternal life, and prevent me from wilfully putting it away from me by continuing in wickedness. Turn me to Thee, O Lord, and so shall I be turned; Thou sparest when we deserve punishment; therefore, O Lord, spare me, that I may recover my strength, even that strength which Thou givest in Jesus Christ our Saviour, in whose Name I pray for mercy and forgiveness, and for grace to serve thee better in time to come. Amen.

A PRAYER TO BE USED IN THE WEEK BEFORE RECEIVING THE HOLY COMMUNION.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast instituted and commanded us to continue a perpetual

memory of Thy precious death, until Thy coming again: hear me, I most humbly beseech Thee, and grant that all who are about to receive the Holy Sacrament of Thy Supper, may be partakers of Thy most blessed Body and Blood. Enable me, O Lord, and all who intend to meet around Thy table, to draw near to Thee with faith and repentance, to feel love one to another, and to resolve, by Thy help, to lead a new life, following Thy commandments, and walking, from henceforth, in Thy holy ways. O may we all take this blessed Sacrament to our comfort, and so eat of Thy Flesh and drink of Thy Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by Thy Body, and our souls washed by Thy most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Thee, and Thou in us. And grant that not only when we meet at Thy table, but at all times and in all places, we may so come to Thee that we may never hunger, and so believe on thee that we may never thirst. Grant this also to those of us who are yet too young to join us at Thy holy Supper, for

to all of us hast Thou said that Thy Flesh is meat indeed, and Thy Blood is drink indeed. Lord, evermore give to all of us this Bread, and at the last receive us into an everlasting communion with Thyself in heaven, where thou livest and reignest, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

A PRAYER TO BE USED AFTER RECEIVING THE HOLY COMMUNION.

O Lord Jesus Christ, I thank Thee, I praise Thee, I glorify Thy Name that Thou hast established this perpetual memory of Thy death, and that Thou hast called me to the knowledge of Thy love, and given me the means of partaking of this holy feast. I thank Thee that I have been baptized into Thy Church, taught to know Thy truth and Thy will, and admitted now into the full participation of Thy holy ordinances. Lord,

may all these means of grace be to me a savour of life unto life, and not, by my own neglect and sin, a savour of death unto death. May my whole life be a perpetual communion with Thee; may I daily eat Thy Flesh and drink Thy Blood, knowing that without such heavenly food I am helpless, and lost, and dead. If Thou sparest me again to partake of Thy Supper, O may I be better and holier than I am now. Bless all who met with me at Thy table to-day; may we love one another, as Thou hast loved us; be amongst us always, and make us indeed a spiritual house, built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, with Thyself for the chief corner-stone. Teach us all to feel how this blessed communion with Thee and with one another must always be inconsistent with any combination amongst ourselves to do evil. Make us one in holiness, and peace, and love, but not in disobedience, and folly, and sin. Hear me, O Lord, and bless us all, and make us to love Thee, and one another in Thee, who didst die for us and rise again, and now livest for

ever with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

A PRAYER TO BE USED BY CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION.

Almighty God, into whose name, according to our Saviour Christ's commandment, I have been baptized, give Thy special blessing to me now, and to all those who are about to renew the vows then made for us, and strengthen us, I beseech Thee, in all Christian goodness. Enable us all to feel deeply how awful a thing it is to say that we will renounce sin, and believe in Christ, and follow Thy commandments, unless we have seriously resolved by Thy grace to do so. O preserve us from thus trifling with Thee, and grant that this rite may be to us the beginning of a new and spiritual life, that old things may pass away from us, and all things may become new. Confirm us in faith, and hope, and love; con-

firm us in all seriousness of mind; confirm us in the habit of constant prayer, and so help us now by Thy grace, that after this life we may be received into everlasting happiness with Thee, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who livest and reignest ever one God, world without end. Amen.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS IN TIME OF SICKNESS.

Psalm li. 1. *Have mercy upon me, O God, after Thy great goodness: according to the multitude of Thy mercies do away mine offences.*

2. *Wash me throughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.*

3. *For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.*

4. *Against Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy saying, and clear when Thou art judged.*

5. *Behold I was shapen in wickedness, and in sin hath my mother conceived me.*

6. *But lo, Thou requirest truth in the inward parts, and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.*

7. *Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

8. *Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.*

9. *Turn Thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds.*

10. *Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

11. *Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.*

12. *O give me the comfort of Thy help again, and stablish me with Thy free Spirit.*

13. *Then shall I teach Thy ways unto the wicked, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.*

Matt. xxvi. 39. *Father, if it be possible, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done.*

Ps. xxxvii. 21. *Forsake me not, O Lord my God, be not Thou far from me.*

22. *Haste Thee to help me, O Lord God of my salvation.*

Ps. xxxix. 11. *Take Thy plague away from me: I am even consumed by means of Thy heavy hand.*

13. *Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with Thine ears consider my calling: hold not Thy peace at my tears.*

Sanctify, I beseech Thee, O God, this Thy fatherly correction to me: may the sense of my weakness add strength to my faith, and seriousness to my repentance. O Lord, give me grace so to take this Thy visitation, that, after this painful life ended, I may dwell with Thee in life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Saviour of the world, who by Thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed me: save me and help me, I humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Ps. xxvii. 16. *O tarry thou the Lord's leisure; be strong, and He shall comfort thy heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.*

2 Cor. v. 1.—*For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved,*

we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Can I say that I know this? How little in other days have I cherished the thought of it! How little have I done, or left undone, for the sake of it! How coldly and faintly have I sought, if indeed I have sought, a share in this glory! God be merciful to me a sinner!

2 Cor. iv. 16.—*For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

O Thou, who despisest not the sighing of a contrite heart, nor the desire of such as are sorrowful; Thou with whom nothing is impossible, even as from Thee nothing is hid; help me and sanctify me, I beseech Thee, by Thy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, that so I may not faint in the prospect of appearing before Thee, but may have hope in Thy mercy, and at length enter into Thy glory.

O Lord, who hast told us that eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive the things

which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee, do Thou fill my soul with Thy love, forgive me all my sins, and accept me, O Father, not for my own sake, but for the sake of Jesus Christ my Saviour.

Lord, I was conceived in sin, and shapen in iniquity: Lord, I have sinned constantly in thought, word, and deed: how, then, can I appear before Thee, who hast commanded me to be perfect, even as Thou art perfect? Yet spare me, O God most holy; O most loving Father, have mercy on me, and pardon me, and make me holy, for the sake of Him who died for our salvation.

Almighty God, for Thy dear Son's sake, who died for us on the cross, have mercy upon me, and forgive me.*

* Parts of these prayers, with the necessary alterations, will be properly used for the sick person by his friends.

A THANKSGIVING FOR RECOVERY.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, health and sickness; and from whom springs every good and perfect gift: I pray Thee to fill me with a real thankfulness for all Thy mercies, especially for my recovery from this sickness. And grant that I may not, by my own sin and folly, cast away from me so great a blessing, or turn it into a curse, by spending the life which Thou hast lengthened in contempt of Thy holy will. Lord, Thou hast now opened to me a new opportunity of serving Thee; O give me grace to use it to Thy glory. Thou sendest me again into the world; may Thy Holy Spirit keep me from evil. May the remembrance of this Thy mercy never forsake me; may I daily increase in purity and holiness, in truth and love, and zeal for Thee: be Thou with me always, and as Thou hast delivered me from the sickness of the body,

so do Thou preserve me from the more fearful diseases and corruption of the soul. Lord, I pray Thee to accept my imperfect offering of thanks and praise, and to hear my prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

PRAYERS IN TIMES OF AFFLICTION.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, who hast taught us that whom Thou lovest Thou chastenest, and scourgest every son whom Thou receivest, sanctify, I beseech Thee, this trouble which Thou hast sent me to the good of my soul, and give me grace to know and feel that with the happiness which Thou hast given me, it is a blessing that sorrow and pain should be mingled, lest I should think that I have here a continuing city, and fail to seek one to come. Hear me, O Father, for the sake of Thy most blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who for our sakes wast mocked, and scourged, and crucified, enable me to feel that my light affliction, which endureth but for a moment, worketh in me a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Teach me to take up my cross daily and follow Thee, and bring me home, blessed Lord, to Thy flock, who art the good Shepherd, and knowest Thy sheep, and art known of Thine. O may I know Thee always, and by knowing Thee love Thee, and feel thankful to Thee that I am now called off from selfishness and worldly enjoyment, to think of Thee and Thy sufferings for our sake.

O God the Holy Ghost, who art the Lord and Giver of all spiritual life, fill me now with holy thoughts and good desires, a desire of Christ and heaven, a desire of that better part which can never be taken from me; and do Thou teach me those holy lessons which we should learn from sorrow. Hear me, O blessed Comforter, who hast promised to dwell with Christ's Redeemed.

O God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy

Ghost, whose I am, and in whose name I was baptized, but from whom I have so grievously wandered, awaken me from carelessness and the sleep of death, by any means which may seem good to Thee: and if chastisement is necessary for me, do not deny it me, lest in gaining the whole world I lose my own soul, and the blessings of the world to come. Hear me, O God, who hast created me, and redeemed me, and hast promised to sanctify all who believe in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

A PRAYER TO BE USED AFTER THE OCCURRENCE OF A DEATH IN THE SCHOOL, OR AMONGST OUR IMMEDIATE FRIENDS ELSEWHERE.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who art the Resurrection and the Life, I pray Thee to give me grace to profit by the warning which Thou hast sent us. Comfort with the comfort of

Thy Holy Spirit all who loved him who is taken from us, and enable them to know and feel that it is good for them to lose their best earthly treasures, if only they may be led to desire more eagerly those which are heavenly. Make me to feel deeply that I must prepare for the great change which is so surely coming upon me; to remember that, as all who have died in Thy faith and fear are safe, so those left behind are yet in danger. Protect me, Lord, in this danger; keep my face ever turned towards heaven, and make it my first and greatest object to be like Thee when Thou shalt appear, seeing Thee as Thou art. Awaken us all to greater holiness and activity; may we not neglect or despise Thy warnings, but value them most deeply, and thank Thee and bless Thee, who leavest us not quite to our own hardness and carelessness, but callest aloud to us to love and serve Thee better. Grant, O Lord, that we may one day meet again with all from whom Thou now separatest us, in that blessed place where Thou wilt wipe away tears from all faces, and unite

us all in one holy bond of perfect peace, and happiness, and love. Hear me, O Lord, and hasten that blessed time; accomplish shortly the number of Thine elect, and give us all grace so to live, that we may be able, with sincerity and truth, to pray and wish for Thy coming. And then come, Lord Jesus, and take us to Thyself, who reignest in heaven with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER IN TIME OF PROSPERITY.

O Lord, I praise Thee and bless Thee for the good things which Thou showerest upon me, and all the mercies which I share with others, my creation, preservation, and redemption: but especially at this time for the great happiness which I am enjoying. Lord, accept my sacrifice of praise, and fill my heart with gratitude and love, that I may thank Thee by my actions, and not by words

only. But, O Lord, give me grace to fear always, lest the happiness which surrounds me should estrange my heart from Thee. O may my joy not be turned into sorrow, nor my laughter into weeping, by forgetting that I am a stranger and a pilgrim upon earth, and turning away from that better country to which Thou callest me. Lord, give me a humble and contrite spirit, and enable me to tremble at Thy word, so that Thou mayest look upon me with love, and preserve me from all pride, and selfishness, and worldliness. Fill me with compassion for those to whom Thou deniest the blessings which surround me, and who are suffering from pain, and poverty, and misery. Lord, have mercy on them and relieve them; have mercy on me also, that I may not forsake the path that leadeth to life eternal, and enable me to judge myself, that I may not be judged and condemned of Thee. Grant to me the great gifts of repentance and self-knowledge; may I see and abhor my own sins, and resolve henceforth to live only to Thee, O Lord, who didst

give Thy dear Son Jesus Christ to live and die for us, and in whose Name I beseech Thee to hear me, and to grant my prayers. Amen.

PRAYER IN THE PROSPECT OF AN EXAMINATION.

O Lord, who hast taught us that for every talent which Thou hast given us Thou wilt hereafter demand from us an account, I pray Thee that I may now enter upon the work which Thou hast placed before me, with a sincere desire to carry it on in Thy fear, and as in Thy sight; and that all my faculties may be improved by the studies and discipline to which Thou hast called me. Preserve me, O Father, from the danger of forgetting Thee in the midst of worldly excitement; keep down all pride of intellect and learning; humble me, and make me ever meek, and kind, and loving, remembering that I must become as a child before I can enter into Thy kingdom. O

grant that I may do all things to Thy glory: save me from every approach to dishonesty and unfairness, and give me such success in my pursuits as may most surely enable me to serve Thee faithfully all the days of my life in this world, and may minister to my entrance into everlasting happiness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR A BIRTHDAY.

[Read the 25th, 34th, 91st, and 103rd Psalms.]

O Lord, I thank Thee for all Thy mercies to me; for having spared me through years of helplessness, and weakness, and sin; for the blessings of health, and strength, and food, and raiment; for my deliverance from pain and sickness; for having given me kind friends, and so much more happiness than I either deserved or should have dared to ask for. Enable me to show forth my thank-

fulness, not with my lips only, but with my life, by giving myself up to Thy service. Preserve me from the too great love of earthly things; may I never forget that all these enjoyments must soon pass away from me: may I learn the pleasure of self-sacrifice for Thee; and may every event of my earthly life be turned into a blessing, not to my perishing body, but to my immortal soul. Hear me, O Lord, I beseech Thee, for the sake of Him who died to save us, Thy most dear and blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Phil. ii. 5—11. — *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should*

bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

O God, who workest in us both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, enable me, I beseech Thee, to work out my salvation with fear and trembling, and give me grace to consecrate to Thy service the year of my life, of which this day is the beginning. Lord, enable me to feel that, as Christ laid aside for our sake the glory which He had with Thee before the world was, so I must lay aside for Him those evil and worthless things which I now too dearly love, all sin and worldly desires, and selfishness, and pride. May this birthday be to me the image of a spiritual as well as a natural birth; may I now begin to love and serve Thee better, and do Thou give me that same mind which was in Christ Jesus. Lord, together with me, bless my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, my other relations and friends, my school companions, and all whom I love and

for whom I ought especially to pray. Teach me to love them better, and make me more worthy to be loved by them in return, by turning me from sin and folly to the holiness which is acceptable with Thee. Lord, hear all these imperfect prayers, and receive me into the number of Thy children, both in this world and that which is to come, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER ON RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast brought us in safety to the beginning of a new time of work, I thank Thee for all the happiness which I have lately been enjoying. I thank Thee that Thou hast given me kind friends, and a happy home, and crowned me with loving-kindness and tender mercies. May all that I have lately received from Thee make me more eager to work for

Thee in return, and may I be enabled by the help of Thy Holy Spirit to show that I do not forget Thy bounties. O Lord, I pray Thee to forgive all the sins which I have committed since I was last here, all the evil temper and selfishness which I have shown, my too great anxiety to make all things minister to my own enjoyment. Teach me hereafter to follow Christ always, to think less of myself, and more of Him who died for me. Make me diligent in my proper work, kind, and obedient, and true, fervent in prayer, labouring ever to glorify Thy name. May this coming period of school life be blessed to me, and to every one of us; save me from the temptations and dangers which will come upon me, and help me by Thy Spirit to overcome them. Especially look with mercy upon those who are now come amongst us for the first time, and preserve them by Thy grace from evil. Grant, O Lord, that I may never lead any one into what is wrong, knowing that then it were better for me that a millstone were hanged about my neck, and that I were

drowned in the depths of the sea. Bless all whom I have left at home, make them also Thy true servants, and faithful in doing Thy will. Hear these prayers both for myself and others, accept my imperfect thanksgivings, give me true repentance for the past, and help me to serve Thee better for the time to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER ON LEAVING SCHOOL FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

O Almighty God, who hast brought me safely to the end of this period of my school life, I pray Thee to forgive the many sins and weaknesses by which I have offended Thee. Pardon my want of love to Thee and to my fellow-creatures, forgive my carelessness, my thoughtlessness, my hardness, my selfishness; and remember them not, O Father, but wipe them out of Thy book, for the sake of Him who died for our salvation. Grant, O Lord, that the experience of my past weakness may

make me henceforth more watchful over myself, more zealous to serve Thee, more fearful to offend Thee; so that I may ever be growing more and more fit for Thy presence in heaven. And now that we are about to part for a season from each other, grant that those of us who meet again here may return with believing and holy hearts, and better able than before to help each other in Thy service. Guide and protect those who are about to leave this place, and may the experience which they have gained in this lesser world of school be blest to them by Thy Spirit in their passage through the great world without us. O Lord, have mercy upon us all, and if it be Thy pleasure that we should meet no more on earth, give to every one of us an entrance into Thy heavenly kingdom, so that, having served and loved Thee here, we may reign with Thee hereafter for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

No form of prayer has been provided for the use of those who are *themselves* about to

leave the School. At that time, the death of our boyhood, the birth of our manhood, the end of our first great period of earthly probation, it would seem impossible to fetter by any form of words the expression of all the thoughts, and hopes, and fears, and regrets, the sorrow, the penitence, and the shame, the love, and gratitude, and fervent zeal, which must so forcibly rush on the serious and thoughtful mind. He who has an earnest heart will not be then at a loss for words to convey his wants and wishes to the throne of God and Christ, for it will not be he who speaks, but the Spirit of his Father who speaketh in Him.

A PRAYER TO BE USED IN THE HOLIDAYS, INSTEAD OF THOSE PARTS OF THE DAILY PRAYERS WHICH REFER DIRECTLY TO SCHOOL DUTIES.

O Lord, I thank Thee for all the happiness which I am now enjoying. Make me kind and

affectionate to all about me, preserve me from selfishness, and grant, above all, that in the midst of my enjoyments I may never forget Thee, who art the Giver of them all; but that, wherever I am, I may live to Thee, and study in everything to follow Thy blessed will. Bless my dear father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and my other friends and relations, and also my schoolfellows, who are now scattered in so many places; may we still be all one in spirit, united to Thee and to Jesus Christ Thy Son, in whose name I offer up to Thee all my prayers and thanksgivings. Amen.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

O God, who hast spoken to us by Thy Son, the brightness of Thy glory, the express image of Thy person*, fill my heart with joy and thankfulness for His birth as on this day, and enable me to love Him, and to cleave to

* Heb. i. 2., Epistle for Christmas Day.

Him with all my soul and all my strength. O Lord, amidst the happiness of this season, may I not forget that He was born to suffering, and had not where to lay His head. Fill me with compassion towards those of His people who like Him are now suffering from want and cold, and enable me to deny myself for their sakes. O teach me how to serve Him better in all things, both at home and at school, and make me more eager for the things of heaven than for the things of earth. Bless all my relations and friends, and also my schoolfellows; may we all now be gaining strength at our several homes, to live holier lives when we again meet and are exposed to the temptations of school; and may we carry into all our work and all our pleasure the thought that Christ was born for us, and died, and rose again. Lord, hear me, I beseech Thee, and bless me in all things, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

O Almighty God, who hast sent Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to die upon the cross as a Sacrifice for our sins, be merciful, for His sake, to me a sinner. O Lord, forgive my sins. Look mercifully upon me, though I have rebelled against Thee: grant me grace, by Thy Holy Spirit, to put my whole trust in that one Sacrifice once offered, for pardon and acceptance in Thy sight. Grant also that, being reconciled to Thee by the death of Thy Son, I may be saved by His life. Strengthen me day by day to overcome that deadly enemy of my soul which crucified Him as on this day, and by which I still so often dishonour Him. So may I share the glories of His Resurrection, rising now from the death of sin, and also hereafter from the death of the body. Enable me to turn to Thee with my whole heart, and to love and serve Thee, not only at

solemn times and seasons, but always; and to remember that there is no work of mine which should not be sprinkled with Christ's blood, and consecrated altogether to His glory. Grant also, O Lord, that the love of Christ may constrain us all to love one another, that, knowing Thee through Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent, we may all lay down our sins at the foot of His cross, and follow Him in all meekness and holy obedience, till through the grave and gate of death we may pass to a joyful resurrection, for His merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE EVENING OF EASTER DAY.*

O Lord God Almighty, I thank Thee that Thou hast brought me safely to see another

* For the remaining prayers, see Dr. Arnold's Life and Sermons.

return of this day, and to share in the services of Thy Church in commemoration of Thy blessed Son's Resurrection. I pray Thee to forgive me for all my inattention and carelessness during Thy worship this day. O Lord, I know that such inattention springs from indifference to Thee, and carelessness about my own soul. Grant that I may feel my own state more truly, and then the tidings of salvation will not be heard with indifference. If I have derived any good from any part of Thy public worship this day, grant that it be not lost to me. Encourage every thought of good which Thou hast put into my mind, and strengthen all such thoughts, and add to them. Suffer not the excitement and pleasures of my daily life to steal them from me, but keep them alive in me to bring forth fruit daily. Encourage my great weakness by some of Thy gracious answers to my prayers, that feeling the comfort of Thy help I may not fail ever to ask for it. I pray also for all my relations, friends, and schoolfellows. Bring home to all our hearts the lesson of Thy Son's Resurrec-

tion, and grant that we may so obey His first call, to arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may hear His voice with joy when He bids us to come forth from our graves to judgment. [May all of us who went this day to Thy holy table retain Thy blessing in our hearts, filling us with love to Thee, and to one another.] May we not be of the number of those who draw back unto perdition, but of those who press forward to receive their crown. Blessed be Thy Holy Name, now and evermore, for all Thy mercies to me; O hear me and grant my petitions for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE EVENING OF WHIT-SUNDAY.

Almighty and everlasting God, in whom alone is man's strength, from whom all good things do come to us, the will to please Thee and the power to fulfil it: look down upon

me now praying to Thee at the end of this Thy holy day; and suffer not that which I have heard or read this day to have been heard or read in vain. [O Lord Jesus Christ, of whose only grace it cometh that Thy outward ordinances are profitable to our souls, grant that Thy Holy Communion may be an abiding blessing to all who have to-day partaken of it, that, through Thy Holy Spirit working in us and through us, it may become a real and lasting communion with Thee.] Enable me to think of Thee sometimes amidst the stir of my daily life; and when the thought has come to me, O save me from the sin of turning away from it. Yet, if I ever do wickedly put it from me, and grieve Thy Holy Spirit, who as on this day came down to guide and bless and help us, still, O Lord, of Thy great mercy, leave me not to my own hard and careless way, but by any means whatsoever, yea, even by chastisements grievous to be borne, do Thou save me from the sleep of death, and let me hear Thy call once again. And, O Father, who hast given Thine only

Son Jesus Christ, that our sins may be blotted out for His sake, may the thought of Thy mercy to us in Him fill me with a true and living faith, and grant that I may never turn from Thee in fear, but come to Thee boldly according to Thy will, crying, Abba, Father. To Thee are known all my weaknesses and dangers; more than any words of mine can speak, Thine eye seeth in me. Have mercy upon me, and not on me only, but on all of us; strengthen each according to his need, by the help of the Comforter whom Thou hast promised, and bring each more and more into the faith and love of Thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO BE USED BEFORE DAILY WORK.

O Lord, who by Thy Holy Apostle hast taught us to do all things in the Name of the Lord Jesus and to Thy glory, give Thy blessing, I pray Thee, to this my daily work, that

I may do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. All my powers of body and mind are Thine, and I would fain devote them to Thy service. Sanctify them and the work in which they are engaged; let me not be slothful, but fervent in spirit; and do Thou, O Lord, so bless my efforts that they may bring forth in me the fruits of true wisdom. Strengthen the faculties of my mind, and dispose me to exert them; but let me always remember to exert them for Thy glory and for the furtherance of Thy kingdom, and save me from all pride and vanity and reliance upon my own power or wisdom. Teach me to seek after truth, and enable me to gain it; but grant that I may ever speak the truth in love; that while I know earthly things, I may know Thee, and be known by Thee, through and in Thy Son Jesus Christ. Give me this day Thy Holy Spirit, that I may be Thine in body and spirit, in all my work and all my enjoyments, through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A PERSON VISITED BY A SLIGHT ILLNESS.

O Lord and heavenly Father, I come before Thee with my humble thanks for all Thy mercies towards me, more especially for the means of grace which Thou hast afforded me, in this interruption to my usual course of health. I thank Thee for thus reminding me that my enjoyment of the blessings of this world will not last for ever; that the things in which I commonly take delight will one day cease to please me. I thank Thee that, by calling me off for a little while from my common employments and amusements, Thou givest me time to think how I am passing my life, and what those joys are which, if I once learn to know them, will abide with me for ever. Lord, deliver me from all impatience and all fear for my body, and fill me at the same time with spiritual fear; let me not be

afraid of pain or sickness, but let me be afraid of Thee, and not waste the opportunity which Thou art now affording me. Give me grace to think, under the visitations of light sickness, whether I am fit to be visited with dangerous sickness; let me consider what I should do, if, while my body were weakened, my mind should be clouded also, so that I could not then pray to Thee for succour. Now, therefore, O Lord, teach me to call on Thee while I can call on Thee, to think on Thee while my reason is yet in its vigour. Teach me to look into my heart and life, to consider how Thou wouldest judge me, to ask Thy forgiveness through Thy Son Jesus Christ for all that Thou seest amiss in me, and by the help of Thy Holy Spirit, to overcome all that is evil in my heart, and to learn and practise all that is good. Restore me in Thy good time to my usual health, and grant that this interruption to it may be sanctified to my soul's health, so making it not an evil to me, but an infinite blessing, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

TWO PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY EVENING.

O Lord our God, we are once again arrived at the evening of Thy holy day. May Thy Spirit render it truly blest to us!

We have attended the public service of Thy Church; Thou knowest, O Lord, and our own consciences each know also, whether, while we worshipped Thee in form, we worshipped Thee in spirit and in truth. Thou knowest, and our own consciences know also, whether we are, or are likely to be, any the better for what we have heard with our outward ears this day.

Forgive us, Lord, for this great sin of despising the means of grace which Thou hast given us. Forgive us for all our carelessness, inattention, and hardness of heart: forgive us for having been far from Thee in mind, when our lips and outward expression seemed near to Thee.

Lord, grant that this may not be so for

ever; but that what we hear with our outward ears may at last be grafted by Thy Spirit in our hearts; so that, when our life is drawing near to its end, as this day is now, we may not feel that we have lived without Thee in the world, and that we are dying unforgiven. Gracious Father, be pleased, if need be, to touch our hearts in time with trouble, with sorrow, with sickness, with disappointment, with anything that may hinder them from being hard to the end, and leading us to eternal ruin.

Thou knowest our particular temptations here. Help us with Thy Holy Spirit to struggle against them. Save us from being ashamed of Thee and of our duty. Save us from the base and degrading fear of one another. Save us from idleness and thoughtlessness. Save us from the sin of falsehood and lying. Save us from quarrelling and ill-temper. Save us from unkindness and selfishness, caring only for ourselves, and not of Thee and for our neighbours. Thou who knowest all our weaknesses, save us from

ourselves, and from our own evil hearts. Renew us with Thy Spirit to walk as becomes those whom Thou hast redeemed, through Thy Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

O Lord, we thank Thee for having preserved us safe from all the perils and dangers of this day; that Thou hast given us health and strength, food and clothing; and, whilst there are so many who are poor, so many who are sick, so many who are in sorrow, that Thou hast given us so richly such manifold and great blessings.

Yet more, O Lord, we thank Thee for Thy mercies to us in Thy Son Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for Thine infinite love shown in our redemption, that Thou hast opened, through Thy beloved Son, the kingdom of heaven to all believers. We thank Thee for the full assurance of hope which Thou hast given us, that, if our earthly tabernacle be dis-

solved, we have yet a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Thou hast shown to us nothing but goodness, O Lord, for this life and for life eternal; and yet we have sinned, and are sinning against Thee daily. We are forfeiting all Thy blessings, and turning them into a curse. Forgive us, for Jesus Christ's sake, all and each, for all our many sins in thought, word, and deed; whether known to others, or to our own conscience alone, or forgotten even by our own careless hearts, but known and recorded by Thee against the great day of judgment.

One thing more, O Lord, we pray for, without which all these blessings shall only condemn us the more heavily. O Lord, increase and keep alive in us Thy faith. Let not the world, and our own health, and the many good things, which Thou hast given us, prove a snare unto us. Let us endure, as seeing by faith Thee who art invisible.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst take our nature upon Thee, and art now standing as the Son of Man at the right hand of the Majesty

on high, reveal Thyself to our minds and hearts, as Thou didst to the bodily eyes of Thy Martyr Stephen. As Thou didst comfort and strengthen him in his suffering, so, O Lord, do Thou warn and chasten us in our enjoyments; making us to know and feel that in Thee is our only life, and that, if we cleave not to Thee, and have not Thee abiding in us, we are dead now, and shall be dead for ever.

Quicken in us the remembrance of our Baptism; how we were pledged to become Thy true servants and soldiers to our lives' end. [Dispose us all to renew this pledge from the bottom of our hearts, both those of us who are going to receive the rite of Confirmation soon, and those of us who have received it already, and those of us who may expect to receive it hereafter. Quicken in as many of us as have either this day or heretofore been partakers in the Communion of Thy Body and Blood, the remembrance of that blessed Sacrament; that we gave ourselves therein to be wholly Thine, in body,

soul, and spirit, that we might evermore dwel in Thee, and Thou in us.]

O Holy Spirit of God, who art the onl Author of all spiritual life, quicken us witl Thy power, and preserve in us that life whicl is Thy gift. Forgive us that we have s often grieved Thee; and preserve us fror grieving Thee so long and so often, that Tho wilt depart from us for evermore, and leav us to a state beyond repentance and beyon forgiveness. Teach us to remember tha every day which we spend carelessly and un profitably, we are grieving Thee and temptin Thee to leave us. Let not our prosperit harden our hearts to our destruction. Scree us from the horrible sin of casting a stumblin block in our brother's way, of tempting hir to evil, or discouraging him from good, b our example, or by our laughter, or by ou unkindness and persecution.

O Lord Almighty, this day is now drawin to its end. May the means of grace whic Thou hast given us in it work good in us fc *to-morrow and* the days to come. May Th

blessing be with us on this first day of the week, to guide and strengthen us even to its end.

Bless all our friends in all places, and keep them in Thy faith and fear. Bless Thy universal Church militant here on earth, and grant that all who confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus, may believe on Him in their hearts, to life everlasting. Bless our Queen and our country; that we may be a Christian people, not in word only, but in power. Bless this School, that it may be a place of godly education, to Thy glory, and the salvation of our own souls. Fill us with Thy Holy Spirit, that we may labour in our several duties towards one another and towards Thee, as befits those whom Thou hast redeemed by the blood of Thy dear Son.

Finally, we thank Thee for all those, whether we have known them on earth, or whether they were strangers to us, who have departed this life in Thy faith and fear: and who are safe and at rest till the day of Christ's coming. Increase their number, O Lord, and

enable us through Thy grace to be of their company, that, when He comes in His glorious majesty, and shall call us all to judgment, we may stand with all Thy faithful people at His right hand, and may hear Him call us blessed, and bid us enter into Thy kingdom to see Thee face to face. Hear us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

THE END.

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